

An Act relative to boater safety to be known as The Hanson Milone Act

The Hanson Milone Act aims to enhance boater safety by amending Chapter 90B of the General Laws, introducing new definitions, updating equipment and safety requirements, and establishing boater education and certification programs.

The Hanson Milone Act was signed into law by Governor Healey on 01/08/2025.

Highlights

- 1** The Act mandates all vessels to carry U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices (PFDs) suitable for passengers' size and type.

Motorboats must carry accessible and serviceable fire extinguishers, and operators of motorboats equipped with lanyard-type engine cutoff switches are required to attach the lanyard during operation.
- 2** Beginning April 1, 2026, introduces a mandatory boater education program for all motorized vessel operators, aligning the program with U.S. Coast Guard safety standards and aimed to ensure that every boater is equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to safely navigate the state's waterways.
- 3** Kayak instructors must obtain certifications in First Aid, CPR, and water safety. They are also required to provide wet exit training for beginners using spray skirts. Any liability release limiting compliance with these requirements is deemed void.

